

A Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hickory was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., with the following members present:

Brad Lail	Rudy Wright	Hank Guess
Vernon Tarlton	Aldermen	David P. Zagaroli
Danny Seaver		Jill Patton

A quorum was present.

Also present were: City Manager Mick Berry, Assistant City Manager Rodney Miller, Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt, Deputy City Attorney Arnita Dula, City Attorney John W. Crone, III, Governmental Affairs Manager Yaidee Fox and City Clerk Debbie D. Miller

- I. Mayor Wright called the meeting to order. All Council members were present.
- II. Invocation by Rev. Whit Malone, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Special Presentations
 - A. Business Development Committee, Dr. Dana Chambers, Legacy Award Presentation to Byron Logan, Carolina Office Equipment

Dr. Dana Chambers of the Business Development Committee explained the purpose of the Business Development Committee (BDC), which was to support economic development, and increase employment in the City of Hickory by identifying and accessing ideas and applying local economic development resources to determine the potential success of a project proposal. The committee evaluates grants, researches creative business spaces and discusses innovative incentives to help promote and grow new and existing businesses. She recognized Carolina Office Equipment which had been doing business and serving the Hickory community for over 65 years. She advised that Mr. Byron Logan, along with his three sons and 17 employees, had made helping customers run their businesses his business. They offer equipment and support services, a wide variety of office supplies, design services, and a gift and stationary department. As a US Navy combat veteran of World War II, Mr. Logan exemplifies the type of businessmen that the BDC is proud to support and honor, he has truly created a legacy. She presented Mr. Logan with the first Legacy Award.

Mr. Byron Logan commented that he was proud of Hickory and proud to be awarded this award. He signed up for the US Navy in 1944. He started selling out of his car in 1949 and worked in different counties selling typewriters and other machines. He commented there was a big difference in Catawba County compared to other counties. He could sell better in Catawba County. People were more open minded in Catawba County. He picked up and worked on equipment at night. He commented that he was pushing 90 and still worked. If you don't keep your mind active and keep working you will end up over in Oakwood. He recognized his wife, sons, and some of his employees who were in attendance. He mentioned that he had worked with George for 45 years and they never had an argument. He recognized the veterans in the audience and commented that we have to appreciate veterans. He suggested that City Council recognize the veterans with a key to the City when they come back from Iraq, or Iran to recognize them for their service. Mr. Logan praised the City of Hickory for the Senior Games. He talked about his great-great uncle Avery Powell and his role in bringing the railroad to Hickory. He commented that Hickory was a great place to live.

Mayor Wright asked Mr. Logan what was the last race he had ran.

Mr. Logan advised he did the polar plunge last Saturday. His mother paid for him to go to the "Y" for swimming lessons when he was 10. He was an exceptional underwater swimmer. He was washed out to sea, and by being a good underwater swimmer it saved his life. He had ran a race in Denver on Saturday and showed a medal he had won. He talked about a 5 mile run in Salisbury. He told a comical story about "today is the day".

Mayor Wright asked Mack McLeod if he knew how many medals and trophies Mr. Logan had won in the senior events.

Mr. Mack McLeod stated it was a bunch.

Mayor Wright commented that Mr. Logan's jacket was a State Senior Games Competition jacket with the navy insignia on the back. He commented that was a great award and it was fantastic that the BDC did that.

- B. Presentation of FY 2016-2017 Board and Commission Work Plans. Presenters will be allotted five (5) minutes to make their presentations to Council.

Board/Commission	Presenter
Business Development Committee	Dr. Dana Chambers

Citizens' Advisory Committee	Mark Huggins
Community Appearance Commission	Andrew Straw
Community Relations Council	Clise Plant
Hickory International Council	Hani Nassar
Hickory Regional Planning Commission	Brian Frazier
Hickory Youth Council	Alanna Church
Historic Preservation Commission	Larry Triplett
Library Advisory Board	John Kenny
Parks and Recreation Commission	Lloyd Coley
Public Art Commission	Todd Hefner
Recycling Advisory Board	Norm Meres
University City Commission	Ryan Edwards

Business Development Committee, Dr. Dana Chambers, mentioned that Jeff Neuville had agreed to stay on the committee as an ex officio member as well as Dr. Ralph Griffith with the Lenoir-Rhyne University Center for Commercial and Social Entrepreneurship. She discussed the key points of the work plan and advised that the Vacant Building Grant was an ongoing item that they would continue to fund to repurpose some of the spaces. The CDBG Microenterprise Grant is brand new and there are certain requirements for very small business owners. There are poverty level requirements with regards to the amount of the family income. One person has applied for that and they think it is a very innovative grant. They will continue recognizing established businesses, and other businesses that are 75 years and older. They will work with internships and mentoring and how they can partner with other groups to see what is needed in the community. She advised that they were presenting the work plan and budget but there may be some more requests through the year if some other opportunities come up for small businesses.

Citizens' Advisory Committee, Chair Mr. Mark Huggins, advised that the committee's primary goal is to get input from and give the citizens a voice on the Community Development program of how the funds are spent. The committee's objective is to represent citizens in planning, accessing, and reviewing the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and utilization of home funds, North Carolina Housing Finance Agency funds and any other community development based funding the City of Hickory may receive through the Community Development Department. This impacts the community by providing services and programs to stimulate the development of affordable housing for low and moderate income families located in distressed neighborhoods within the City. They recommend loan applications to City Council for various housing related programs offered to low and moderate income families within the City of Hickory, including renovations of existing homes through the City's housing rehabilitation programs. This will provide affordable low interest housing loans to renovate existing substandard housing for low and moderate income homeowners. Funding from this would come from the CDBG Entitlement Funds Rental Rehabilitation Program income, NC Housing Finance Agency funds, and other funds as they become available. To stimulate the development of new affordable housing they will continue to investigate options for redevelopment of City owned property as affordable housing. Funding will be from CDBG Entitlement funds, North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, local finance institutions and self-help credit union. Low to moderate income families within the City of Hickory will be recipients of loans using available funds. They will also provide funding for infrastructure and public facility improvements in low to moderate income neighborhoods using CDBG Entitlement funds to help achieve the CDBG goal of creating suitable living environments. He thanked Council.

Community Appearance Commission, Chairman Mr. Andrew Straw, showed a PowerPoint presentation and listed the members serving on the commission. Their mission is to enhance the appearance of the City by advising and implementing programs of community beautification. In the current year the commission had implemented new grant operating guidelines and procedures, re-energized the beautification awards program, continued the refresh of the adopt-a-spot program, and participated in the Arbor Day program by giving away tree seedlings. He advised that their major budget item was the grant program. The commission had forwarded to City Council nine grant applications totaling over \$34,000. He showed a photo of the impact of one of the projects in the Highland Avenue area. He pointed out a photo of Carson Hart and his Eagle Scout project which had received a beautification award in the special category for 2015. The work plan for 2016/2017 was largely the same as the previous year. The major part being the grant program and the support of the litter pickup program. They recommended the minor redistribution of funds to add some funding to support the beautification awards by slightly decrementing the Arbor Day Tree and Litter Education Programs. He showed a slide of the recommended breakdown of the total \$51,300 budget request.

Mayor Wright commented each of these chairmen and representatives of these commissions where here on behalf of their entire commission. On average these commissions have 12-15 people, some bigger and some smaller. A total of approximately 200 people serve on the boards and commissions not counting the Bond Commission

group which is approximately 45. That 200 represents about one-half of one percent of the people of Hickory or about one out of every 200. They are giving their time and serving the City well and making this a better place to live.

Community Relations Council, Chair Ms. Clise Plant, presented a PowerPoint presentation of the work plan and how their budget had helped various organizations of the City. The work plan consisted of four main parts: 1) a grant program which occurs twice a year in the spring and fall. She advised there had been an uptick in applications for the grants. This past fall they had a total of 17 applicants. She advised that it was tough to narrow down the recipients and these groups are doing amazing things for the City of Hickory. 2) There is also a multicultural event which is typically held in the spring. This event honors groups and individuals for outstanding human relations in the community. 3) A Board retreat in Hickory that trains the Community Relations Council members. She showed a slide of the Board retreat held in September 2015, the Community Relations Council members participated in a diversity exercise lead by Emma Sellers who is the Director of the Lenoir-Rhyne Office of Multicultural Affairs. 4) A Community sponsored event in October which is the community movie night. Residents can donate food in exchange for movie tickets at the Carolina Theatre. They had about 250 people that attended that event last year and donated 465 pounds of can foods. The movie shown was Charlie Brown. She showed examples of the previous and recent grants: Western NC Epilepsy Hope garden. This program provides fresh vegetables and fruits to its members and other non-profits such as Cooperative Christian Ministry and the Soup Kitchen. The program strives to help people with garden skills so they can better provide for themselves. The Young People of Integrity produced a documentary "Calling Catawba County Home", which was a documentary on diversity from actual Hickory and Catawba County residents from their own perspectives and experiences dealing with race relations. She commented that we are doing really well in the City of Hickory with regards to that and it is a must see. Hickory Music Factory which is a program that has the musical storytelling series that exposing children in the community through literature through the use of music and musical instruments. The Lenoir-Rhyne Office of Multicultural Affairs designed to expose Latino High School students to the college experience. She showed the Human Relations Award event held Under the Sails on the Square in the spring. They typically have four award winners. She advised their events are open to the public and the food is always provided by local vendors and there is a musical event at the end. She showed a photo of the Aztec Dancers performance. She advised that the Community Relations Council requests was for \$17,000 for fiscal year 2016/2017. She commented that this was the same amount that was granted to them in the previous year. She provided a breakdown of the funds that they had received: Grants - \$12,400, Community Relations Events - \$2,500, Training and Council Development - \$1,250 and Outreach Efforts - \$850 for the movie night. She thanked Council for the opportunity.

Alderman Zagaroli inquired about the community garden. He asked if anybody could get a plot on that.

Ms. Plant didn't have the information. She commented that it was so important for people in the community to know how to grow their food, especially during this economy. This is a great way, especially for low income citizens to know how to grow their food. It is a win/win for everybody, and they are glad to help this organization and other organizations help out the citizens.

Alderman Zagaroli questioned if the plot was in town.

Ms. Plant confirmed there was a plot in the City of Hickory. That is why they were approved for the funds because it is in the City of Hickory. It is in their work plan that it has to benefit the City of Hickory since the funds are from the City.

Alderman Zagaroli asked if she could advise him of the location.

Alderman Lail advised it was located off of North Center Street in a lot beside the creek in the floodplain area.

Alderman Seaver commented that there are also community gardens at Ridgeview and Civitan Park too.

Ms. Plant advised that there is more than one plot.

Hickory International Council, Mr. Hani Nassar presented a PowerPoint presentation. He advised the activities were a repeat of last year. He showed the Pangea Model UN Conference scheduled for March 8 - 9, 2016 at Lenoir-Rhyne University, they have 175 students registered for this event. It is delegates in roleplay of what the United Nations does. There are 29 countries that will have delegates represented at this event next week. The International Film Festival for Children will occur sequentially April 25-28 at the SALT Block, Maiden High School, and Newton Conover Middle School auditorium. He listed the schools involved in the event for grades 4-6. He advised that the Footcandle Society

received 321 submissions from 49 countries. He listed some of the countries of where the submissions were from. They had to go through all of the submissions to select a few that the students would see. Fifteen of those had been submitted to the school system Superintendents so they could screen through them and decide which ones that they would show the students. The Folkmoot USA Festival is scheduled for July 19, 2016 at the SALT Block Auditorium. He advised that four times a year they bring in foreign movies for the Footcandle Film Society. They bring in movies that have won academy awards. Son of Saul will be shown in April at the Carolina Theatre. In September and October they have Great Decisions which is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. There are eight topics issued by the Foreign Policy Association every year. The topics are discussed and debated two hours a week for eight weeks by approximately 30 community members who participate. He showed a list of the eight topics for this year. Mr. Nassar discussed the Community Grant and commented that they would like to have more applications. He advised that one winner was St. Stephens Elementary School for Hmong Scholars Day Camp which was for two weeks in July. Another winner was from the Western Piedmont Council of Governments area Agency on Aging. This was called the Care for the Hispanic Family Caregiver project. The goal was to empower all caregivers of older adults in Catawba County with information, resources, and support to help their caregiving journey be successful. This project is starting in the Hispanic community. This year the grant was for \$500 each. In the work plan for next year he wanted to increase that to \$750 for a total of \$1,500 or three grants of \$500 each depending on how many applications that they have. He mentioned the Steve McCurry Photographic Exhibit at the Hickory Museum of Arts which was a collaboration between the Hickory Museum of Arts and Catawba Camera Club as well as the Hickory International Council. He pointed out the 1984 photo taken by Steve McCurry which became the most recognized photograph in history for National Geographic magazine. The exhibit will be at the Hickory Museum of Art from September 2015 to May 2016. He advised that the Christmas Concert was scheduled for December 10, 2016, done by the Romanian Baptist Church at the SALT Block Auditorium. Last year the concert was recorded and livestreamed. He advised that there was a link on their website that the concert could be accessed through. He requested to increase the grants from \$500 to \$750. He requested \$14,000 for Hickory International Council. He advised that they also raised some money for some events, so it is not only the money that they get from the City. They do give back to the City what they don't use.

Alderman Lail commented that it was a lot of work to screen 321 movies.

Mr. Nassar confirmed that was correct. It is tough to select movies for children so they have to be very careful.

Hickory Regional Planning Commission, Mr. Brian Frazier, advised the Chairman could not be present therefore he would be presenting the work plan. He advised that the Planning Commission was not requesting additional funding. The commission would be completing its five year review of Hickory by Choice. He commented that it was a significant review and update which would be driven by the Planning Commission and Staff. They are looking at adding chapters to address the bond initiative as well as historic preservation and public health. Once Staff and the commission's subcommittee goes through the Hickory by Choice plan, chapter by chapter, they will delve into the Hickory Future Land Use and the zoning map as well as the Land Development Code. This process is expected to not be brought to Council until late 2016 or early 2017 because it is a five year update and there is quite a bit of work. The commission will also continue its expeditious review of rezoning special use permits, rezoning's, and the like. They are also working with planning staff to monitor the City's EPA area wide planning grant located on the south side in the 127 and 70 corridors. That process is just getting started. They started a new and revised Brownfield Advisory Group. They are working with AMEC Foster Wheeler out of Durham who had assisted with the last Brownfield Grant. They are looking at staying current on planning related issues at the State, local and national levels, and they will continue to provide direction for City Staff regarding any upcoming long range planning projects.

Hickory Youth Council, Chair, Ms. Alanna Church, highlighted events from this year. They had two department tours one at the Public Service complex, and the Hickory water plant. The next tour will be at the Police Department. They coordinated with Frye Regional Hospital where they held a Christmas and Valentine's Day party for rehabilitation patients. They also volunteered with the backpack program. They attend two conferences, one in Durham and one in Winston-Salem. They furthered their knowledge regarding the Youth Council by communicating and meeting with various Youth Council's from across the State. For the remainder of the year they are planning on attending the State Youth Council convention that will be held in Charlotte and they are also holding an elected official forum in April. They are going to help with the planning and execution of the annual Easter Egg Hunt. They had great success with their coat drive in the fall which inspired them to have a sports equipment drive in the spring. The Youth Council teaches High School students the fundamentals of local government and also prepares them for a future in the community. They requested \$3,600. They felt that this amount was sufficient for them to achieve and hopefully exceed these goals next year and to grow the youth into better citizens. She

commented that the question always comes up on how to get people her age to come back to Hickory and get a family here. She felt that by being a part of the Youth Council it was a great first step. She had gained such an appreciation for Hickory and she is happy to live here.

Mayor Wright asked how many eggs they would hide this year.

Ms. Church responded it seems like a million, but she wasn't exactly sure of the number, it was a lot.

Mayor Wright commented he thought it was 25,000 eggs.

Ms. Church commented that the Youth Council stuffed all of them.

Mayor Wright commented that it always amazed him, 25,000 eggs.

Historic Preservation Commission, Chair Mr. Larry Triplett advised that they review applications for Certificates of Appropriateness, review nominations for the National Register of Historic Places and make recommendations on historic districts and landmarks and they attend planning conferences to keep up to date on those things. He advised that their budget remained \$11,100. They recently completed an updated historical survey. They did post war neighborhoods dating from the 40's to the 70's. They continue to implement their plaque program for the historic houses. In the last year and a half they have distributed 41 plaques. There is still approximately 100 that could be purchased by the residents, one half by the City and one half by the residents as they are paid for. On March 8th they will be having a preservation workshop at the Crossing at Hollar Mill at 6:30 p.m. They will learn about State and local programs and tax credits.

Mayor Wright commented that the City has really stood out in preserving our old buildings and converting them to up to date uses.

Library Advisory Board, Chairman Mr. John Kenny, advised that there were ten members on the Library Advisory Board. He discussed a brief explanation of what they do and why they exist. He felt it was important to educate folks about what the Library Board does. They may not know about other things going on at the library. He commented that they exist to get the greater Hickory and Catawba County communities involved in what the libraries are doing, both in an educational sense and making them aware of learning opportunities. He discussed some things that the library had done in the past year. There had been articles in the Hickory Daily Record about the library. There is a public library newsletter. Members of the Board have been speaking to local civic groups. It had been on the radio on the Hal Rowe Morning First Talk show. There had been a focus on advocating for library funding at the local and State levels. One of their objectives is to work with the Lenoir-Rhyne University visiting writer's series, which has been immensely popular in terms of the kinds of folks it brings and the statue of those writers. He gave an example of Anne Lamott, a California writer, coming to Lenoir-Rhyne University, but before that appearance she will be at the Public Library on April 7th to do a book signing.

Parks and Recreation Commission, Mr. Lloyd Coley presented a PowerPoint presentation. He advised that their objective is to strongly emphasize the Parks and Recreation department's plans and efforts to renovate and upgrade the existing recreation facilities and buildings. He showed photos of completed projects: the Hickory Optimist Park Phase 1 improvements, Brown Penn Senior Citizen Center renovation, and Kiwanis Park Field number one fence replacement. He advised that the next five projects were already funded which included the Southside Heights Park restroom facility location, additional parking at Hilton Park, Hickory Optimist Phase 2 improvements, and the paved trail resurfacing at Hilton Park. Another objective was to continue to pursue collaborative public/private partnerships to upgrade and improve Hickory's parks and recreations services. To play special emphasis and focus on the following four initiatives: proposed improvements to Geitner Rotary Park by the Robert Lackey family, proposed tennis complex improvements at the Hickory City Park by the Greater Hickory Tennis Association (GHTA), Friends of Hickory proposed downtown park, and the Kiwanis Park splash pad. Another objective is to continue exploring the Parks and Recreation Commissions recommendation to pursue an aquatic recreation facility that would serve the entire Hickory community by researching funding mechanisms, locations, and infrastructures. They will play special emphasis on the potential inclusion of splash pads and spray grounds into the Hickory Park system. He showed a rendering of the actual splash pad that is underway at Kiwanis Park. They will also continue support of Hickory's partnership with the Hickory Foundation YMCA to provide the opportunity for all personal residents to participate in swim lessons. He pointed out there had been 2,223 people from 2009-2015 for swim lessons. Another important object was to support completion of the Sandy Pines Park Master Site Plan as recommended in the 1997 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The 2010 Parks and Recreations need assessment and endorsed by Hickory by Choice. He showed a property shot of the Sandy Pines area. The final objective was to support the

development of the future Bruce Meisner Park as recommended by the approved Park Master Site Plan.

Mayor Wright commented that is pretty ambitious.

Alderman Seaver commented that they had already been to work there was three things scratched off from the very beginning.

Mr. Coley commented that he was technologically challenged and he had asked Mr. McLeod to put something together for the presentation that would be simple enough for him to present. He thanked Mack McLeod, Michelle Wilkerson and his Staff for their assistance.

Public Art Commission, Mr. Todd Hefner, showed a PowerPoint presentation. He discussed accomplishments of the Public Art Commission. They had purchased three new sculptures and were awaiting installation. The first sculpture was "Generations" designed by Stefan "Steebo" Bonitz which would be located in Sally Fox Park. The next one was "Study Time" by Jonathan Mhondorhuma which will be located to the left of the entrance to Patrick Beaver Memorial Library. The third one is "Nature's Way" by Prosper Chirodza and will also be located in Sally Fox Park. They are having some maintenance issues with the benches. He showed a photo of the bench with the Hickory Logo at Robinson Park. The issues are rust and skateboards. He showed the American Flag bench at Hickory Optimist Park and Lady of the Lake at McComb Park that also needed repairs. They have at least 12 benches that are in need of repair and two sculptures. The average cost of the bench is \$150, and the sculptures are approximately \$1,000 each. They have to be removed and taken off site and brought back to where they are located. In the 2016/2017 work plan they will continue the public art program sculpture acquisition in the amount of \$16,000; and provide outreach and educational efforts to build support for public art. Some of the commission's continuing initiatives include the art walk brochure development. After almost 10 years they hope this will be accomplished this year in the amount of \$2,000. Revisions and improvements to the Public Art website, training and subscriptions - \$500, provide for maintenance of existing art work - \$4,000. The Public Art Commission returned \$9,184.94 to General Fund in fiscal year 2015. The total request was \$22,500.

Alderman Seaver asked about the 12 benches that needed maintenance, did they need to be rebuilt or just painted.

Mr. Hefner advised painted and repaired.

Alderman Seaver commented that those are pretty sturdy benches, it would really take something to tear one of those up.

Mr. Hefner replied they weigh about 300 pounds each.

Alderman Seaver commented that is why they are still there.

Recycling Advisory Board, Chairman Mr. Norm Meres, discussed accomplishments from last year. They took a really big step forward with the single stream recycling program and the implementation of it in June of 2015. It was a big step forward for the recycling program that was already successful with the curbside recycling in the residential. It had gone a long way to continue to reduce the waste stream and things going to the landfill. He advised that it is the large blue rollout that enables the City to take on a much broader range of materials to recycle. The pickup is every other week. Items now taken are mixed paper, cardboard, and more plastics than was done before. He reiterated that it began in June and it had not been a full year yet. The transition to it and the implementation went very well and smoothly. There was a lot of great support from the City and really good feedback from citizens on what has happened with it. Everyone had been real positive about the additional materials and what they were able to rollout to tell people what they could recycle and how the whole program worked. There has been a tremendous increase in the amount of residential recycled material that is recycled therefore it is diverted from the landfill. It nearly doubled the tonnage year to year at this point. They are still tracking the numbers of the residential recycled amounts because of the availability of the single stream. The participation rates remain strong in the City. They were strong with the curbside program. They are continuing to look at those numbers too. It is a little difficult to have direct comparisons because the pickup is every other week. If someone doesn't use it every other week, it looks like they are not using it when it is they have space and they are just doing it more like once a month. It has been successful and continues to grow. For the coming year the Board will continue to monitor the program itself and what they can do to improve it, and extend the program. In 2015 they added some items to the website to make it easier for the citizens to see information about what to recycle, and if there is something that they can't recycle where else they could take it. There had been hits a number of times with the maps to tell you what day the pickup occurs. Another area that they have had great support within the City, in conjunction with the County, was the household hazardous waste collection that happens once a year. It occurred last

November and they had a record number of participants in that, another success that has continued from year to year. In 2016 they will keep looking at areas where there is low participation and increase educational opportunities to get more people to recycle and do the right things. They will look at multifamily housing as other areas of opportunity to do more recycling. Also in the work plan is to continue to educate the children. Each year they have sponsored, together with the County, a play for 4th graders to get children thinking about recycling and talking to their parents about it. He thanked City Council for their support. He stated that it started with the curbside program in 1991, it is in the 25th year that the Board has been together. He commented that it is great to see it grow and expanding and doing real well. They expect to have continued improvement and changes this year. Hickory has been a leader in the recycling.

Alderwoman Patton requested an up to date report on how much was diverted when the year was up. She thought it had been a great program.

Mr. Meres advised they were tracking numbers and would do that at the end of the year.

Alderman Seaver liked the strategy of tracking what areas may not be using it as much. He asked how they proposed to educate the people in that area. Would they knock on doors, or have a community meeting?

Mr. Meres advised that some of that had been neighborhood meetings, and other community type of meetings before. Some could be more specifically targeted like that. They haven't done anything quite like that yet, but try to understand why people are not doing it, and if they aren't do they really understand the program. It is really getting the information out to them.

Alderman Seaver questioned if there was data showing how successful they were in educating the citizens.

Mr. Meres commented he didn't know if they had anything exactly like that. They have always done that each year with looking at the general curbside program. It is so much easier when you are throwing all of the things together and let them be sorted out later, people don't realize how easy it really is to do that.

Alderman Seaver stated at his house they had enough to go every week.

Mr. Meres commented that many people are finding that what is going into the regular trash can it is not as full anymore because you are moving so much to the recycling bin. It has worked really well at a lot of households.

University City Commission, Chair Mr. Ryan Edwards, commented that they had done a lot this year. They are going into their third year of existence as a commission. He highlighted some of their projects. They had further implemented the Lenoir-Rhyne corners, the discount program which has over 30 retailers/restaurants within the area providing discounts to faculty, staff, and students for Lenoir-Rhyne. He advised that was the ones that they had tract and turned in their logos to the University. The Lenoir-Rhyne corners project has taken that to a second level. They are putting together packages and initially seeking out those members of the discount program and providing them with pennants or other types of Lenoir-Rhyne apparel or memorabilia. This has gained a lot of traction within the last few weeks and there has been a lot of support with that. There has been the presence of the University City Commission (UCC) through shirts within the student section of Lenoir-Rhyne, through Bear Nation. As the UCC seeks to forge a deepened relationship between Lenoir-Rhyne University and the City of Hickory that is presence on the back of the student shirts. When they are going out further from Hickory, friends, family members, and the public can see that. They will be working with Lenoir-Rhyne, and have been throughout, to promote their 125th anniversary. They have a number of events going on this year celebrating that anniversary. They are trying to make other people in the area and citizens within Hickory aware of those. One item that they are assisting with is the 5K run in April. They are also working with the City to potentially have a Lenoir-Rhyne night at the Sails later this year. They are working with the City, Duke Energy, the Bond Commission's Streetscapes and Gateways Subcommittee, and Lenoir-Rhyne with ideas from I-40 into the University. They had several meetings and they hope to have further discussions with the Bond Commission as they look to try to get public/private partnerships, especially with that corridor. He advised that the request was \$12,000 to continue to maintain current programs, and they will pursue other programs and partnership opportunities to enhance their mission during the given year.

Mayor Wright asked for a hand for all of the volunteers. There is something going on all the time, every day. Citizens trying to better the community we all share.

V. Persons Requesting to Be Heard

- A. Mr. Larry Pope, thanked Council for the opportunity to be heard on an issue that he was personally working on through others in the City and the community. He had received a copy of the City Charter for the City of Hickory. When he read that copy that he was given, he was interested in seeing what it had to say about impeachment of City Council, Mayor or anyone else in the City who was elected to a position. The only thing that it said was that City Council members can impeach another City Council member by a majority vote for doing something that was unacceptable. Nowhere in that charter did it say how a citizen who has the right to vote, and who has the right to choose who sits on Hickory City Council and who is the Mayor of the City. What steps need to be taken for that citizen to circulate whatever is required to get the number of signatures that is needed? He personally called Catawba County Board of Elections, they did not have an answer because they did not know. He called the State of Board of Elections, they had no answer because they did not know. He wrote the Attorney General for the State of North Carolina Roy Cooper and he never received a response from him. He asked Mayor Wright to submit to him, by whomever needs to submit it, in writing, what it would take to impeach Mayor Wright and City Council as Council members. He commented that there has got to be something somewhere but no one seems to know where it is or what it exist under. He advised that he was asking for it in a reasonable amount of time. In which to him was ten days should be reasonable and should be enough time to submit whatever needs to take place by voters/citizens of this City and what they need to do if it is a desire to impeach the Mayor and City Council members if that is what is chosen to happen. He thanked Council.

Mayor Wright asked City Attorney Crone if he would take that up for the next meeting.

City Attorney Crone commented that he could give him a shortcut if he wanted to have something to look at before he gave them something formal. The way citizens remove people from City Council or the Mayor is called the ballot box. That is the first way. There is a great treatise if you go onto the Institute of Government's website. There is a lawyer who specializes in this particular area of the law named Robert Joyce who has a very good treatise on removing elected board members from office. Mr. Crone advised that he would be glad to print it for Mr. Pope and get it to him.

Mr. Pope thanked Mr. Crone.

VI. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting of February 16, 2016

Alderman Lail advised of a correction to the minutes, page 55 in the agenda packet the term "against a fine item" should have been "against finite".

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderman Lail that the Minutes of February 16, 2016 be approved with the noted correction. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wright announced that the motion was made by Alderman Seaver seconded by Alderman Lail and the motion carried unanimously.

VII. Reaffirmation and Ratification of Second Readings. Votes recorded on first reading will be reaffirmed and ratified on second reading unless Council Members change their votes and so indicate on second reading.

Alderwoman Patton moved, seconded by Alderman Zagaroli that the following be reaffirmed and ratified on second reading. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wright announced that the motion was made by Alderwoman Patton seconded by Alderman Zagaroli and the motion carried unanimously.

- A. Approval of a Community Appearance Grant for Non-Residential Properties Owned by Tim Cline Properties, LLC Located at 246-252 Union Square in the Amount of \$5,000. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- B. Approval of the 2016 Loan Agreement with the National Museum of the United States Air Force under their Static Display Program for Loan of Aircraft to the City of Hickory/Hickory Regional Airport. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- C. Approval to Amend the Parking Ordinance for the Farmer's Market to Supersede Last Year's Ordinance (15-03) with a Time and Date Change. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- D. Approval of Amendment One (1) to the Agreement for Consulting Services with Gavel & Dorn, PLLC in the Amount of \$17,000 for the Central Business District Waterline, Sewer Line and Storm Drainage Rehabilitation Project. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

- E. Acceptance of Change Order One (1) with Hickory Sand Company, Inc. in the Amount of \$6,890 for the Construction of the Sherwood Forest Sewer Project. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- F. Acceptance of a 25 Foot Temporary Construction Easement and 25 Foot Sanitary Sewer Line Easement for the Property of Randall Javann Bryant and wife, Constance E. Bryant, PIN #3724-18-40-0894, for Installation of a Sanitary Sewer Line. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- G. Acceptance of Bid and Award of Construction Contract to Iron Mountain Construction Co. Inc. for the Construction of the Kenworth Waterline Rehabilitation Phase 3 Project in the Amount of \$627,000. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- H. Budget Ordinance Amendment Number 17. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)
- I. Approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission's Recommendation to Rename the Proposed Cloninger Mill Park to Bruce Meisner Park. (First Reading Vote: Unanimous)

VIII. Consent Agenda: All items below are considered to be routine by the City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Council Member so requests. In which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered under Item IX.

Alderman Lail moved, seconded by Alderman Tarlton approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wright announced that the motion was made by Alderman Lail seconded by Alderman Tarlton and the motion carried unanimously.

- A. Approved the Special Events Activities Application Hickory Hops, Connie Kincaid, HDDA Executive Director, April 16, 2016, Event Time 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., (Set-up April 15, 2016 7:00 a.m. and Clean-up Ends April 16, 2016 11:00 p.m.), Government Avenue & Second Street SW.
- B. Approved the Special Events Activities Application Downtown Hickory Art Crawls, Connie Kincaid, HDDA Executive Director, May 19, September 15, and October 28, 2016, 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Union Square, 3rd Street NW, 2nd Street NW, 1st Avenue NW, 1st Avenue SW, 2nd Street SW, and Government Avenue SW.
- C. Approved on First Reading the Temporary and Permanent Easements with Piedmont Natural Gas on City-Owned Property Located Off of Dietz Road.

The City owns multiple properties located off of Dietz Road near the River Road interchange on US 321. Piedmont Natural Gas has a sizable transmission easement and two gas lines running through the property. Piedmont Natural Gas is working on a project to upgrade the existing lines and construct a new line in the easement. This requires an additional 2.051 acres be added to the existing 3.722 acre easement. An additional 1.108 acres of temporary easement will be required during the construction process. Staff has researched easement prices and spoken with professionals involved in real estate and feels that the price offered by Piedmont Natural Gas of \$7,200 for the permanent easement and \$1,600 for the temporary easement is fair. The easement prices are based on 50 percent of the total value for the permanent easement and 20 percent of the total value for the temporary easement. Staff recommends City Council approve the temporary and permanent easements with Piedmont Natural Gas on City-owned property.

- D. Approved the Revisions to the Vacant Building Revitalization Grant Program.

In the 2015 session the North Carolina General Assembly approved some revisions to the State Economic Development Law (NCGS §158-7.1). The revisions clarified the procedural requirements for cities that make expenditures under that part. The City has used this section as the authority for its Vacant Building Grant Program since its inception in 2008. The statute now requires that the City hold a public hearing prior to expending funds under the authority. The revisions to the guidelines outline the required procedures to keep the City's policy consistent with the new law. Another change removes the requirement for a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment prior to application for funding. Since the City no longer has funding from the EPA to conduct these assessments, this requirement is no longer practical as it creates an additional required cost to the owner that may not be required by their financing institution. Staff recommends Council approve the proposed revisions to the Vacant Building Revitalization Grant Program.

- E. Approved on First Reading Acceptance of the Offer to Purchase City-Owned Property Located at 159 12th Street Court SE in the Amount of \$81,000.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds were used to purchase and rehabilitate the home located at 159 12th Street Court SE. Because the property was purchased and renovated with CDBG housing rehabilitation and purchase program funds, the property must be sold to a low or moderate income buyer and who will occupy the home as a principal residence. Staff has received an offer on the property for \$81,000, which is slightly above the asking price of \$79,900. However, the buyer is asking for the \$4,000 in closing cost assistance. This will help reduce the out of pocket expense for the buyer. The property has been listed for sale with Hickory Real Estate Group since July 2015. Staff feels that this offer is fair in light of the income and owner occupancy restrictions on the home. Since the home is being sold to an income eligible buyer as affordable housing, NCGS §157-9 authorizes the City to sell the property without using a competitive sale or upset bid process. The competitive sale requirement would be incompatible with the income and ownership restrictions that are necessary due to the use of CDBG funds to purchase and rehabilitate the property. Staff recommends acceptance of the offer to purchase City-owned property at 159 12th Street Court SE.

- F. Approved on First Reading Budget Ordinance Amendment Number 18.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-11
BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT NO. 18

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the City of Hickory, that pursuant to Section 15 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, that the following amendment be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016.

SECTION 1. To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Public Safety	21,057	-
TOTAL	21,057	-

SECTION 2. To amend the General Fund revenues for the above, the revenues will be changed as follows:

FUNCTIONAL AREA	INCREASE	DECREASE
Miscellaneous Revenues	293	-
Other Financing Sources	20,764	-
TOTAL	21,057	-

SECTION 3. Copies of the budget ordinance amendment shall be furnished to the Clerk of the Governing Board, and to the City Manager (Budget Officer) and the Finance Officer for their direction.

- IX. Items Removed from Consent Agenda – None

- X. Informational Item

- A. Report of City Manager Mick Berry's travel to the NC City and County Management Seminar, February 3-5, 2016, Durham, North Carolina, (Meals and Lodging - \$322.56; Registration Fee - \$335; Mileage Reimbursement - \$183.43).

City Manager Mick Berry reiterated his travel to the NC City and County Management Seminar, February 3-5 in Durham, NC.

- XI. New Business:

- A. Public Hearings

1. Approved on First Reading Consideration of an Ordinance to Restrict Un-Muffled Engine Noise within the City of Hickory Limits.

Un-muffled engine noise is a concern for citizens, especially those who live near the interchange of I-40 and US Hwy 321 particularly at night. Large trucks exiting the interstate use their engine to slow them down in an inappropriate manner in lieu of using their braking systems properly. The noise caused by using this method is loud and disturbing to nearby property owners creating noise pollution. The City of Hickory Traffic Division has worked closely with NCDOT to follow guidelines in order to restrict un-muffled engine noise. Steps are being taken to get the appropriate signage in place as soon as the ordinance is passed. Staff recommends Council consider adopting the ordinance regarding un-muffled engine noise.

This public hearing was advertised in a newspaper having general circulation in the Hickory area on February 19, 2016.

City Manager Mick Berry asked the City's Public Services Director Mr. Chuck Hansen to the podium to present Council with a draft ordinance to restrict un-muffled engine noise within the city limits of the City of Hickory.

Public Services Director Chuck Hansen advised Alderwoman Patton that he would give her a sneak preview on her previous question. For the seven months that the City had single stream recycling compared to the previous seven months and before that, the City was up 94 percent in tonnage.

Mr. Hansen began his presentation on un-muffled engine braking. Staff had some requests, mainly in the interchange of I-40 and 321. There are some local subdivision in that area, and most of this was nighttime noise versus daytime noise. They do get some nighttime noise in that area mainly tractor trailers using an engine braking mechanism. He advised that it sounded like a chattering and using a lot of exhaust noise to help slow the vehicle down. He advised that it has to do with the compression of the engine and releasing that compression off. It produces a pretty loud noise in the exhaust system and it keeps them from hitting the truck brakes.

Alderman Zagaroli commented a Jake brake.

Mr. Hansen advised that the Department of Transportation has been working with this across the State. This has gone on for 9 to 11 months. The Department of Transportation (DOT) is in the process of developing some standards that they would allow that across the State, if municipalities chose to follow, that on one of DOT's roadways. He commented that I-40 and 321 are NCDOT roadways. Part of that is in the City limits. That interchange is in the City limits. Through DOT's guidelines they allow if a City chooses to adopt a local ordinance then the City can enforce the un-muffled engine braking policy where that use is prohibited. In this case the first step would be the ordinance be approved to allow that to be enforced. The next step would be signage would be installed along the exit ramps on I-40, where you drop off to US 321 both northbound and southbound. It is difficult to enforce and to police. In that industry they do see it a lot of places where the un-muffled engine brake signs exist. He felt there would be some participation from the truck industry associated with that. He advised if Council adopted the ordinance that Staff would work with DOT to obtain an encroachment agreement, and they would have to get the signs made and installed. He advised that the ordinance was due to the tractor trailers using the engine braking system which creates noise in doing that. This says you can't do that in this area use your regular brakes. Even after the signs are installed it will take a little while for trucks to cycle through their location in their routing and see that sign, and hopefully begin to honor that sign and improve that condition. He advised that Staff was responding to requests from neighbors in mainly the southwest quadrant of that interchange, which is one of the closer subdivisions in there.

Mayor Wright questioned if the truckers were doing this to extend the life of the brakes.

Mr. Hansen commented in most cases. It would be extending the life of the brake system. You actually turn this mechanism on and off with the flip of a switch. He clarified that this doesn't permit someone from using that system in an emergency scenario. He commented that is a long exit ramp, off of I-40 on to the exit lane. It is easy for them to flip the switch and stay off the brakes and slow down and roll through that. Probably more so headed southbound I-40 east to 321 southbound.

Alderman Seaver asked if the ordinance specifically was to handle those kind of brakes on the trucks, the noise ordinance holds the others.

Mr. Hansen commented that in most cases this tucks up under the noise ordinance. This is not the exhaust system. This is not the muffler on a vehicle. This is an engine braking system which vents itself through the exhaust sound on those types of trucks.

Mayor Wright explained the rules for conducting the public hearing. He declared the public hearing open and asked if there was anyone present to speak in opposition to the proposal. No one appeared. He asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the proposal. No one appeared. Mayor Wright closed the public hearing.

Alderman Seaver moved, seconded by Alderman Guess approval of the Ordinance to Restrict Un-Muffled Engine Noise within the City of Hickory Limits. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wright announced that the motion was made by Alderman Seaver seconded by Alderman Guess and the motion carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-10

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HICKORY, NC RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF UNMUFFLED ENGINE COMPRESSION BRAKES

WHEREAS, under N.C.G.S. 160A-187, a city may by ordinance regulate, restrict, or prohibit the production or emission of noises or amplified speech, music, or other sounds that tend to annoy, disturb, or frighten its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the use of engine compression brakes, also known as “jake brakes” by motor vehicles, creates noise which unreasonably and excessively disturbs the public; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory deems it appropriate and necessary to prohibit the use of engine compression brakes in the City of Hickory; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Hickory finds that adoption of this ordinance would further the public health, safety and welfare of the City of Hickory:

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HICKORY, NORTH CAROLINA, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1 Amended:

Definitions.

Unmuffled engine compression brake: a motor vehicle brake which is activated or worked by the compression of the engine of a motor vehicle, and which is not effectively muffled to prevent excessive noise.

Prohibition.

(a) No person shall use an engine braking system within the corporate limits of the City of Hickory which is in any way activated or operated by the compression of the engine of any such motor vehicle or any such unit or part thereof, except in cases of emergency or necessary for the protection of persons and/or property.

(b) The City of Hickory shall identify the areas that engine braking is prohibited and signs shall be conspicuously posted in such areas stating: “No engine braking” or its equivalent.

Section 2: Severability.

If any portion of this Section is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed severable, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

Section 3: Repealed.

All ordinances or provisions of the Hickory City Code of Ordinances which are not in conformance with the provisions of the Amendment occurring herein are repealed as of the effective date of this Ordinance.

Section 4: Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall become effective April 30, 2016.

B. Departmental Reports:

1. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)

Other Minority VACANT

Other Minority VACANT

Alderman Guess nominated Mike Ashabi to Community Relations Council, Other Minority Representative.

HICKORY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms With Unlimited Appointments)

(Appointed by City Council)
Burke County (Mayor to Nominate) VACANT Since 8-6-2008
Brookford (Mayor to Nominate) VACANT Since 6-2006

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

(Appointed by Mayor with the Concurrence of City Council)
(7) Positions VACANT

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
At-Large Minority VACANT

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Ward 3 VACANT

RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD

(Terms Expiring 6-30; 3-Year Terms) (Appointed by City Council)
Ward 3 VACANT

Alderman Guess moved seconded by Alderman Seaver approval of the above nomination. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Wright announced that the motion was made by Alderman Guess seconded by Alderman Seaver and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Presentation of Petitions and Requests

XII. Matters Not on Agenda (requires majority vote of Council to consider)

XIII. General Comments by Members of Council, City Manager or City Attorney of a Non-Business Nature

Alderman Lail commented that the new City website looked fabulous. It went live one day this week.

Alderman Seaver commented that it doesn't take long to figure out how to get around it.

Alderman Lail commented that it really looks up to date.

Mr. Berry advised that it was specifically for your phones. He had been testing it with his phone. He was satisfied with how it scaled.

Alderman Seaver commented that things were logically located.

Mr. Berry commended Patrick Tabor, the City's Webmaster. He didn't go out and hire this out to anybody. He had been sitting at his computer for a couple of months combing through tons of data, with the assistance of Dana Kaminske and Sarah Prencipe. It was an incredible task that he took on. He appreciated the comments from City Council.

Alderman Seaver commented that he would like to have a file for citizens to access with pictures of the City. Photos to sell the City would be good.

XIV. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk